Schemes for forest development in Madhya Pradesh

†4376. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted 11 schemes of forest promotion involving the total cost of Rs. 736.84 crores to the Government of India during November, 1999 to 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted State Forest Action Plan for approval on 30th November, 2000; and

(c) if so, the details of decision taken by the Central Government on both schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted 13 projects for promotion of forestry involving Rs. 12013.449 crores for a period of twenty years under National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) for securing external assistance.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have received the State Forestry Action Plan prepared by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The NFAP has been formulated by the Government of India after compiling the State Forestry Action Plan of all States including that of Madhya Pradesh. The projects have been posed to external donor agencies like World Bank, European Union, IDRC, USAID, JBIC, etc. for providing financial assistance for implementation of the NFAP.

Forest destruction due to fire

4377. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item 'Fire destroys 300 hectares of Gir forests' as appeared in media recently;

(b) if so, the details of destruction of forests due to fire;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to do investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against those who were found to be responsible for the fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) The incidence of fire over 300 hectare of forests, as appeared in media, has been reported from 'Pania Sanctuary' which is adjacent to Gir Sanctuary.

(b) The forest fire occurred in Gir East Forest Division, Dhari on 6-03-2003 in Chanchai beat. Around 350 hectares area is estimated to be affected by the fire with an estimated loss of Rs. 15,000. Dry fallen leaves, dry twigs and dry grass have been reported to be burnt. No injuries to wild animals has been reported.

(c) and (d) Forest protection at the field level is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The State Government has been asked to take expeditious action for investigating the cause of the fire and to take follow-up action against the persons found responsible for the incident.

Dwindling mangrove cover

4378. SHRI B. J. PANDA :
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports "Warning bells over dwindling mangrove cover" in Orissa, as appeared in the media;

(b) whether the cover offers the greatest bio-diversity next to Papua New Guinea, in the world;

(c) whether this forest has not been receiving the required attention in our country and it has under-gone vast degradation; and

(d) if so, help rendered by the Centre to save this dwindling cover in Orissa ?